

BRIEFING DOCUMENT

REPORT FP7 HEALTH - OPEN INFORMATION DAY & BROKERAGE EVENT

1 INTRODUCTION

The event took place on the 8th of June in the Centre Albert Borschette in Brussels and was organized by the Directorate General (DG) for Research of the European Commission. **The event aimed to highlight the novelties, priorities and special features of the 2011 Work Programme, that was due to be published at the end of July 2010.** The high number of participants showed the interest within Europe and beyond for the upcoming call. Weeks before the actual event the inscription was already closed due to an overload of participants.

After a plenary session with speakers as for example the Director of the health unit within DG research; Ms. Draghia-Akli, five different workshops were organized for the stakeholders: Strategic Planning for SMEs, Focus on clinical trials; High Impact Research Initiative and Research without borders /international cooperation. After the workshops the day ended with a plenary session on participation in EU funded projects.

1.1 FP 7 and the Work Programme 2011

The Forum was opened by Draghia-Akli; she starts with a comparison of the Working Programmes 2010 and 2011. The most significant changes are a focus on fewer areas, the fact that more topics can be funded within some areas, an extension of the 2 stage submission/evaluation procedure, more involvement of SMEs and more incentives for clinical trials.

Priority areas that will be covered are: the brain (neurodegenerative + lifestyle related aspects), diabetes/obesity & Lifestyle-induced conditions, anti-microbial drug resistance, emerging epidemics and health inequalities. To cover these topics a total budget of 650 million euro has been reserved. The call is going to be published end of July 2010 and will close 10 Nov. for the single -stage proposals and 13 Oct for the second-stage proposals. The areas that will be covered are divided again in four different topics. **For UEGF the most important topic is translating research for health which includes among other diseases cancer. Funding will be given to:**

- Investigator-driven, treatment trials for rare cancers, affecting not more than 5 out of 10.000 people in the European Union (several projects¹).
- Translational research on cancers with poor prognosis (several projects).
- Epidemiology and aetiology of infection-related cancers (one project).

Secondly there are two potential interesting calls for UEGF under the heading: “biotechnology, generic tools and medical technologies for human health”. Amongst others projects will be funded on:

- Autoimmune diseases wherein projects could receive funding that should lead innovative therapeutic approaches for these diseases and can be tested in relevant preclinical models or in humans.
- Understanding the role of neuroinflammation in neurodegenerative diseases. The successful project(s) should elucidate the link between neuroinflammation and neurodegeneration.

1.2 Workshop: High Impact research Initiative (HIP), moderation

The main speaker within this workshop was Jacques Remacle from DG Research Health Unit F4. He introduced the High Impact Research Initiative and gave some additional information on FP7. The High Impact Research Initiative is a new element within FP 7 and must be seen within this call as a pilot for potential inclusion in other calls in the future. Whether this will happen depend on the will of the member states **they will decide in September whether the High Impact Research Initiative will be included in futures call or not.**

Goal of the High Impact Research Initiative is to do research with high impact outcomes, either direct results that can be implemented in already existing products or technologies. To achieve this, **a significantly higher budget is attributed to projects under this initiative.** At the same time the procedure to receive funding is somewhat different, while projects will be evaluated by at least 7 experts and after passing the threshold, submitters will be invited for a hearing where a panel of experts will ask all sorts of questions.

¹ Number of project that will be funded

For the next call the focus for the High Impact Research Initiative will lay on better immunisation and Epigenomics. Finally Remacle remarked on FP 7 by mentioning the fact that there are no limits anymore to the budget for managing a project; in comparison this limit did exist in FP 6 (7%).

1.3 Plenary session

The plenary session consisted of several short presentations by stakeholders in the field of funding. Among the speakers was Mrs. Gonzalez representative of the national contact point in Spain. She insisted on the necessity of proposals being close enough to the focus of the call to be a successful. Mr. Degen the CEO of EU Relations AG reminded us that the first two phases, initiation and planning, are not funded by EU money. The third speaker was Mr. Beslier from the IPR helpdesk. He described the free of charge IPR helpdesk as an organization that provides information on IPR in relation to FP7 and the CIP programme. In the Q&A the Commission insisted on including the IPR background in project proposals by giving a detailed description of the IPR situation for each participant.

The last speaker was Ms. Hugentobler from Euresearch, describing the do's and don'ts in a proposal. She mentioned the importance of having patient organizations, SMEs and known scientists in proposals. For the last mentioned group, the scientists, it was a plus that there is at the same time somewhat a balance of genders.

Regarding the origin of the partners she stressed the need of having a truly European project by not having for instance four partners from the same country and only two partners from other countries. Moreover, the selected partners had to contribute significantly to the goals of the project, simply finding a partner that is willing to join the consortium was pro forma not sufficient. Finally the project had to fit at least within the overall goals of the FP7 programme and had to be of significance to the society.